

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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INFO US MISSION NATO 1080

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6106

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN NATO FOREIGN MINISTER ENUNCIATES SPAIN'S "NON POLICY"

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SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN MADRID'S DAILY "YA" ON

AUG 6 SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA HAS PROVIDED THE FULLEST PUBLIC EXPRESSION TO DATE OF THE NEW GOV'T APPROACH TO THE ISSUE OF NATO MEMBERSHIP (THE ISSUE HAD BEEN IGNORED IN THE GOS PROGRAM STATEMENT,) IN DOING SO, OREJA REMINDS US THAT THERE IS YET NO AGREED POLICY ON THIS ISSUE, AND PROBABLY WON'T BE UNTIL AFTER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN CONTRAST TO THE STRONGLY HELD DETERMINATION TO PRESS FORWARD WITH EFFORTS TO GAIN ADMISSION TO THE EC. END SUMMARY.

1. HE SAID (INFORMAL TRANSLATION) "THE NATO QUESTION IS BEING STUDIED CAREFULLY BY THOSE SECTORS MOST DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN IT. ALL ITS REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED AND, OF COURSE, I CONSIDER THIS TO BE ONE OF THE QUESTIONS REGARDING WHICH THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE HEARD. THAT IS TO SAY ENTRY INTO NATO WOULD SUPPOSE FULL PARTICIPATION IN ONE OF THE TWO MILITARY ALLIANCES WHICH CONFRONT EACH OTHER IN THIS BIPOLAR WORLD. THUS, THE QUESTION WOULD REQUIRE A BROAD NATIONAL DEBATE. I SEE IN MEMBERSHIP GREAT ADVANTAGES AND GREAT INCONVENIENCES. NATO, IF COMPARED WITH THE TREATY WHICH NOW JOINS SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, WOULD OFFER ENTRY INTO A MULTI-LATERAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT AND ABUNDANT POSSIBILITIES TO PARTICIPATE AND BENEFIT FROM VARIOUS NEGOTIATING FORA ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY MATTERS. THE TREATY WITH UNITED STATES OFFERS US AN EXCLUSIVELY BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT, WITHOUT AUTOMATIC OBLIGATIONS TO ATTACK OR DEFEND, BUT DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO CRYSTALLIZATION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL POSTURE AS A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE TWO BLOCS. AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NOT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO KNOW WHETHER NATO WOULD ADMIT US NOW OR NOT. FOR OUR OWN DOCTRINE IN THIS REGARD IS YET TO BE DEFINED."

2. IN HIS ONLY OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT THUS FAR ON THE QUESTION (TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE CORTES ON JULY 23, IN TESTIMONY ON THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION), OREJA SPOKE IN A SIMILAR VEIN: (INFORMAL TRANSLATION) "RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, AS ESTABLISHED IN THE TREATY CAN PROVIDE A HIGHER LEVEL OF SECURITY BOTH FOR OUR NATION AND FOR THOSE WHICH FORM THE ATLANTIC BLOC. THIS TIE, THROUGH THE UNITED STATES, BETWEEN SPAIN AND ATLANTIC DEFENSE NECESSARILY CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENING OUR INTERESTS. FOR THE

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PRESENT, OUR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE SHOULD BE BASED ON A DISPASSIONATE STUDY OF ITS POTENTIAL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. IT IS IN SPAIN'S INTEREST TO PERFECT EVEN MORE ITS SECURITY AND PROTECTION, BUT WITHOUT FAILING TO Ponder RESPONSIBLY THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN A MILITARY ALLIANCE".

3. COMMENT: AS WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF SPAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

OREJA MAINTAINS A HIGH DEGREE OF CONSISTENCY WITH HIS PREDECESSOR AND FORMER CHIEF AREILZA. BOTH FAVOR MOVING SPAIN TOWARD ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP BUT RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS LITTLE ADVANTAGE, WHEN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF AN ALLIANCE INVITATION, IN PRESSING THE ISSUE WITH THOSE SECTORS OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND THE BODY POLITICA WHO HARBOR DOUBTS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP. THE ABSENCE OF A COORDINATED GOS POLICY ON NATO MEMBERSHIP HAS A BEARING ON OUR ABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH A "DIALOGUE OF SMALL STEPS" TO INCREASE BILATERAL NATO RELATED CONTACTS BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. IT MAY BE HELPFUL BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. IT MAY BE HELPFUL THAT THE ISSUE IS NOT ONE OF ACTIVE POLITICAL CONTENTION AT THIS POINT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE ABSENCE OF A POLICY AT MAY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR OREJA TO TRANSLATE HIS STRONG PERSONAL SUPPORT INTO MOBILIZATION OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE GOVT, MOST NOTABLE THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP.
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